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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As we seek to learn the details of the issues before us and as we endeavor to understand all certainties, it is our prayer, O gracious God, that we will also gain a heart of wisdom. For we know that Your spirit is working within us when we have insight and discernment and sound judgment. Remind us always, O God, that it is not wise simply to observe events or to know all the facts, for the scripture proclaims that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BAESLER] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BAESLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 10, 1-minutes on each side.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution waiving provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 requiring adjournment of Congress by July 31.

SUPPORT H.R. 1834, THE OSHA REFORM ACT

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Secretary of Labor issued a so-called analysis that supposedly showed that Republican OSHA reforms would lead to more workplace injuries. This is outrageous fearmongering. Instead of playing politics, the Secretary should be finding an answer for the question we have asked: Why, after spending over \$4 billion, is there so little evidence that OSHA has made a real impact on reducing injuries and deaths?

The Secretary is fond of noting that injury rates have been declining since OSHA's birth in 1970, but he rarely mentions that those rates have been dropping, indeed, since 1946. Perhaps the Secretary just does not want to consider the real world. Maybe he is just too busy trying to figure out that government can run our lives to think that OSHA really is a failure.

It is time the American taxpayer insisted that OSHA spend at least half of its funds on health and safety in the workplace, rather than hiring dictators to fine small businesses.

KEEPING THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROMISE

(Mr. BAESLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, the Federal Government spent less than 2 percent of the Federal budget educating the Nation's children. Now some in Congress are saying on the one hand that American children need to compete with the children of other nations—in other words that education is a national priority. On the other hand they are saying, let's spend less. I ask my colleagues, "Is education a national priority or not?"

The overwhelming majority of Federal education spending goes toward evening the odds for disadvantaged children in America. Yet some would ask me to support a funding bill that would cut title I funding which helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the three R's. They ask me to support this bill even though it would deny this important funding to 19,100 Kentucky students.

I am not ready to pull the educational rug out from under these kids. I firmly believe that the promise of America is equal opportunity, not equal outcomes. But I also believe title I is the kind of program that provides such equal opportunity and puts the Nation's money where its mouth is.

EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW WHAT IS IN THE MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that Republicans live in paranoid fear that the American people will not discover the truth and that the Democrats live in paranoid fear that they will discover the truth.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The current debate over Medicare clearly shows the wisdom of this statement.

Here is a copy of the Medicare trustees report. It says that immediate action is needed to save Medicare from bankruptcy. As a Republican, and as a concerned citizen, I want every American to get hold of this report. 202-224-3121 is the number for their Representative. They should ask for the Medicare trustees summary report. I want the American people to know what is in this report. It is important that the people decide for themselves if this report is valid.

If this report is true, then we need to get real serious, real quick about saving Medicare. It does not help when Democrats try to politicize and demagog this very important issue.

REPUBLICAN CUTS IN BILINGUAL EDUCATION

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill cuts bilingual education programs by 75 percent.

This massive cut penalizes and punishes children by robbing them of their constitutional right to equal educational opportunities.

The primary objective of bilingual education is to teach children English while ensuring they do not fall behind in other basic subjects.

Numerous studies have documented that many limited English proficient students simply cannot learn and compete in the classroom without these programs.

As a result, the Republican plan will create a permanent underclass of poorly educated children who will be denied the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We as a country cannot maintain our competitiveness in an ever-growing, highly technical global economy unless we develop the talents and abilities of all our children.

The virtual elimination of bilingual education programs works against our children and our national interests.

IT IS TIME TO END THE GOVERNMENT FREE-FOR-ALL

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress will vote to undo some of the damage that previous Congresses caused over the last 40 years. For too long politicians here in Washington assured the American people that they had all the answers to society's problems.

Since the 1960's the Federal Government has created so many programs and so many spending plans that it is absolutely mind boggling. I think it is fair to say that there is not one ac-

countant, not one Government bureaucrat who can name all of the programs that the Federal Government—and the American taxpayer—pays for.

And what has all this spending created?

Debt, debt, and more debt.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the Government free-for-all. It is time to set our priorities straight and work together to balance the Federal budget, if not for our own sake, then for our children and grandchildren.

"THE BUCK STOPS HERE" MEANS IT STOPS WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Waco hearings are over. There are two issues. No. 1: Is Janet Reno truly responsible for the most incompetent police maneuver in American history; or is Janet Reno carrying the water, protecting Larry Potts, the FBI, and the ATF for their actions?

Quite frankly, I do not know; but if "the buck stops here" means anything, Janet Reno should be fired and the people of Waco, TX, should petition their county prosecutor to immediately convene a grand jury, because it appeared to me as a former sheriff that FBI and ATF agents were lying through their teeth to the U.S. Congress. "The buck stops here" should mean something.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS DO NOT WANT THE PEOPLE TO SEE THE REPORT ON MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, this is the report the liberal Democrats do not want the American people to see. They do not want the American people to know the truth about Medicare.

This report was signed by three of President Clinton's Cabinet members and shows clearly that unless something is done, Medicare will go bankrupt in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, every American needs to know the truth about Medicare. I urge all Americans to call their Representative at 202-224-3121 and get a copy of this report.

The American people also need to know that the Democrats do not want to do anything. Their only strategy is to scare senior citizens and bash any attempt to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

What is so very important to Democrats that they would turn Medicare into a partisan issue. This is wrong and only hurts the millions of Americans who depend on Medicare.

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, one of my dear colleagues and former member from the other side of the aisle said to me, "ENI, if you want to make a point and to make sure that an Embassy here in Washington gets your attention—just make it a point by coming to the well of this Chamber and share your concerns with your colleagues and the American people."

Mr. Speaker, I have got good news and bad news. The good news is that the President of France and his military advisors are beginning to feel the pinch whereby consumers all over the world are refusing to purchase French goods and products to protest France's recently announced policy to explode eight more nuclear bombs in the middle of the Pacific Ocean beginning next month on the Moruroa Atoll.

The bad news is that the French Government has now announced it will explode its first nuclear bomb explosion this month because there has been such a tremendous support from ordinary people and leaders of countries throughout the world condemning French nuclear testing.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the charismatic and dashing President of France to quit playing God with the lives of millions of men, women, and children who live in the Pacific. President Chirac should spend more time to resolve France's serious unemployment at 12 percent, rather than proving France's nuclear capability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues and our citizens all over America to join other world citizens by refusing to buy French goods and products.

Shame on you France, shame on you for reintroducing a nuclear arms race again—we do not need it and I believe the good people of France do not want it.

SUPPORT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, August 14 will mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act by President Franklin Roosevelt. With his signature and the support of Congress, a new commitment was established between the American people and their Government.

To mark this anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act, I along with my colleague, ANDY JACOBS, am introducing, today, a resolution to celebrate that landmark commitment.

This resolution will celebrate the occasion the best way possible—by letting the American people know that